三國群英傳

火鳳燎原

The Ravages of Time

1

陳某

殘存之
兵敗如
山倒路

NOT FINISHED

RELEASED BECAUSE I PROMISED TO, NOT BECAUSE IT IS FINISHED

THERE ARE ISSUES WITH DIALOG, CLEANING, REDRAWING ETC...

AN IMPROVED VERSION WILL BE UPLOADED TO THE SITE AND POTATO IN DUE TIME

三國群英傳

火鳳燎原

The Ravages of Time

THE BURNING OF LUOYANG ARC

CH 001 THE AWAKENING OF A KING 009

CH 002 CRIPPLED AND CORNERED 073

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CH 006 ZHONG DA'S RESOURCEFULNESS 173

SCANNED AND EDITED BY ILLYA_

TRANSLATIONS APPROPRIATED FROM MERC

OVER EIGHTEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO, A COMET STREAKED ACROSS THE NIGHT SKY OVER THE CENTRAL PLAIN. NOT ONLY DID IT BRING DEATH, IT SET THE AMBITION OF THE LORDS ON FIRE.
DECADES OF WAR BETWEEN THEIR AMBITIONS...

KILLED
ONE-SEVENTH
OF CHINA'S
POPULATION
BUT ALSO
CREATED
LEGENDS.

AFTER THE
COMET PASSED,
THE SPARKS WERE
ENOUGH TO LIT UP
THE PLAINS.

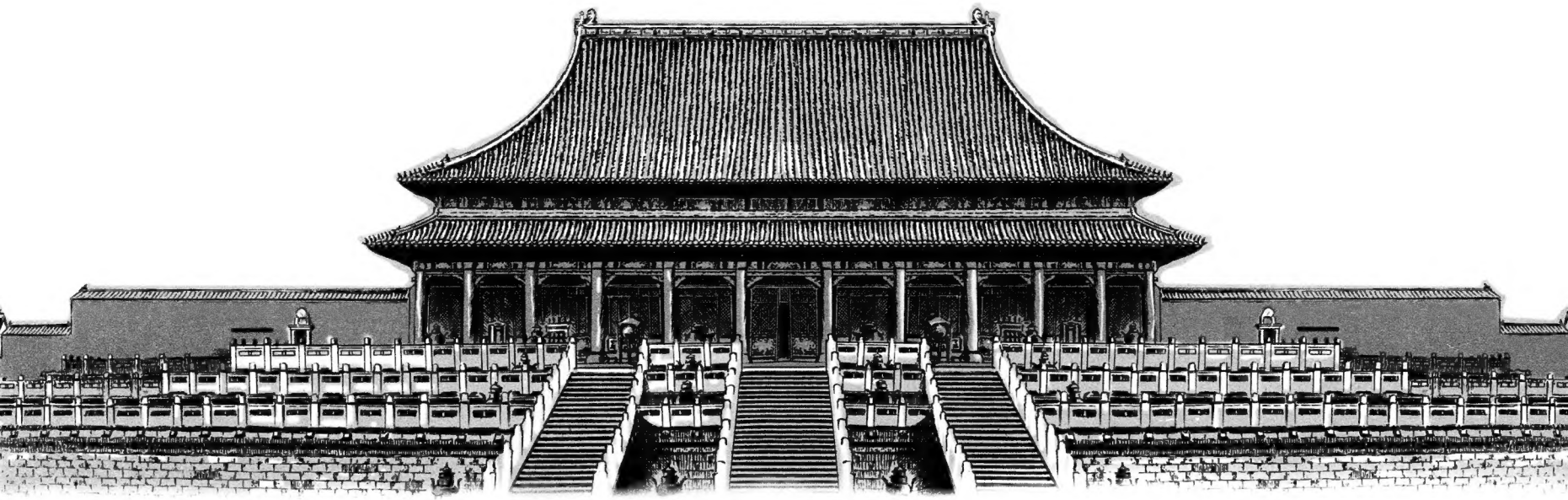
PEOPLE BELIEVE FIRMLY IN THE MEANING OF DREAMS.

THERE ONCE WAS A MAN OF THE CAO CLAN WHO DREAMED OF THREE HORSES EATING FROM THE SAME TROUGH.

THE SPOKEN WORD FOR TROUGH SOUNDS THE SAME AS CAO, SO THE MAN WAS AFRAID HE WOULD BE DEVOURED BY A HORSE.

BUT A DREAM
IS JUST A DREAM!
WHY DO WE WALLOW
IN THEM...

AND BECAUSE OF THAT,
HE AVOIDED ANYONE
WHOSE NAME SOUNDS
THE SAME AS HORSE –
SUCH AS THE SURNAME MA –
EVEN GOING SO FAR
AS TO KILL THEM!



THOSE WHO BELIEVE TOO FIRMLY IN DREAMS ARE ALL WEAKLINGS. THAT'S WHY I NEVER BELIEVE IN DREAMS!
THE FUNNY THING IS, LATELY I'VE BEEN HAVING A RECURRING DREAM- ONE THAT IS UNBELIEVABLY CRAZY!

EVERYTHING IN THAT DREAM WAS BEYOND IMAGINATION!
WAS IT A DREAM? OR AN OMEN FROM FATE?
...I DON'T KNOW.

HOWEVER, I ACTUALLY HOPED THAT THIS DREAM BECOMES A REALITY...
I BET IT'LL BE VERY INTERESTING!

CHARGE!
EVERYONE!

KILL!
KILL!

DON'T LET HIM NEAR THE GRAND TUTOR!

DON'T LET HIM INTO THE GRAND HALL!

熊

SFX SHOOM

熊

SFX SHOOM~

FIRE! HE'S SHOOTING FIRE AGAIN!

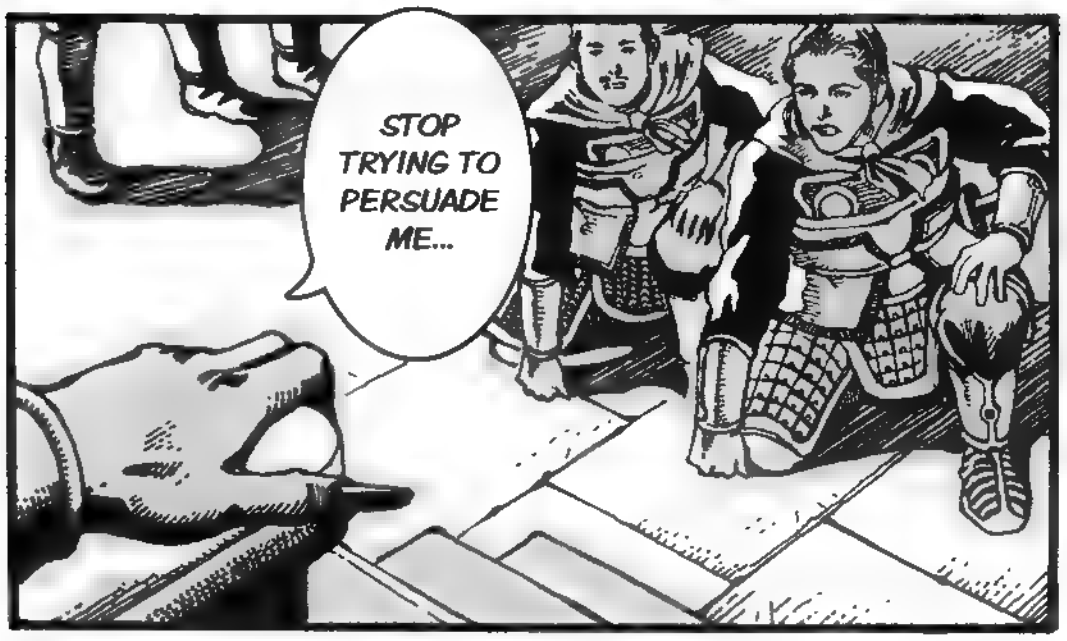
AHH! IS HE A MONSTER?

熊

SFX SHOOM~

FATHER! PLEASE!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO FLEE!


STOP TRYING TO PERSUADE ME...

THIS IS FATE. NO ONE CAN ESCAPE FATE!

AFTER MY DEATH, YOUR MAJESTY, YOU'LL BE FREE OF MY TORMENT!

YOU SHOULD BE LAUGHING!

LAUGH!

TODAY MARKS MY END, AS WAS DESTINED!

FATHER...

WAS DESTINED TO BELONG TO MY SIMA CLAN!

JUST LIKE HOW THIS REIGN UNDER YOUR CLAN...

ACCEPT YOUR FATE, BOY!
KNEEL TO THE FUTURE EMPEROR!

WE SIMA CLAN ARE DESTINED TO TOWER ABOVE!

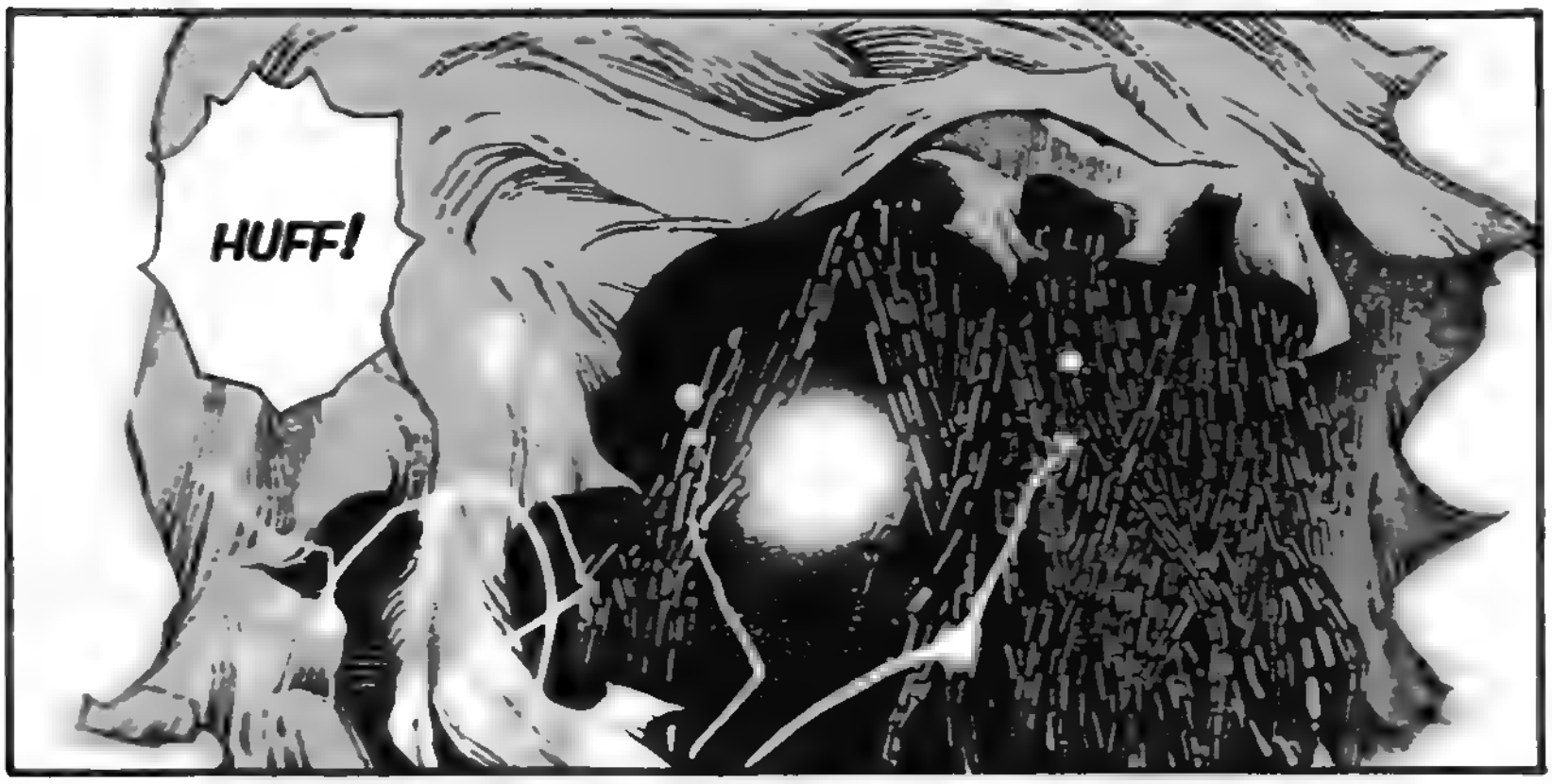
STAND UP, MY SONS!

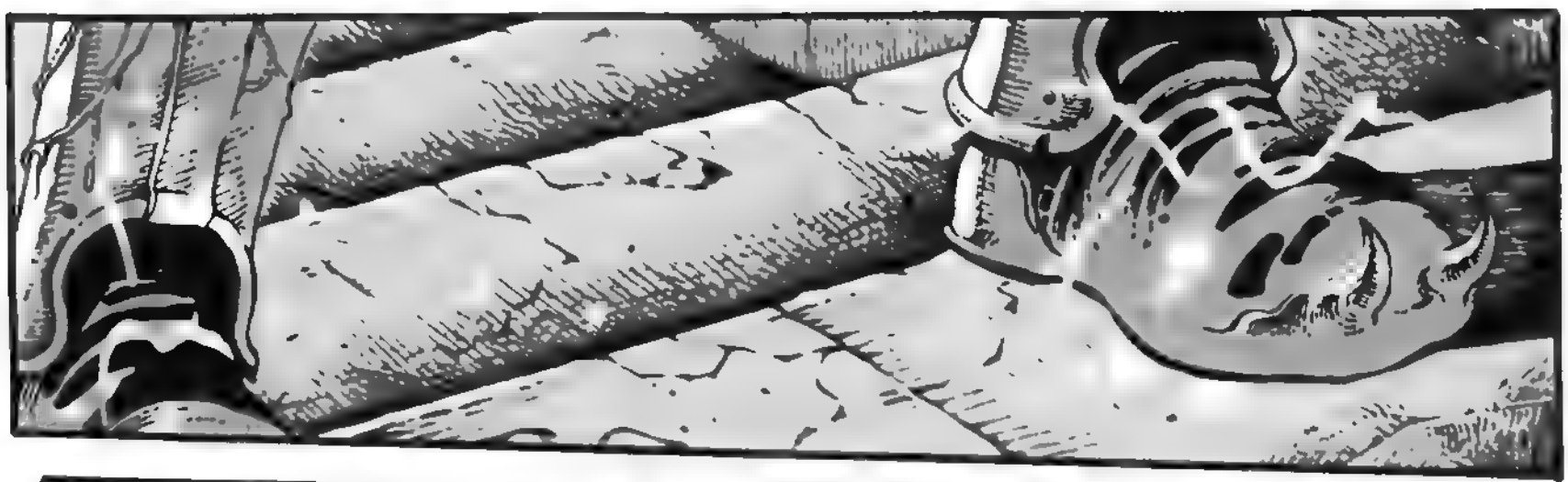
NO ONE CAN CHANGE FATE!

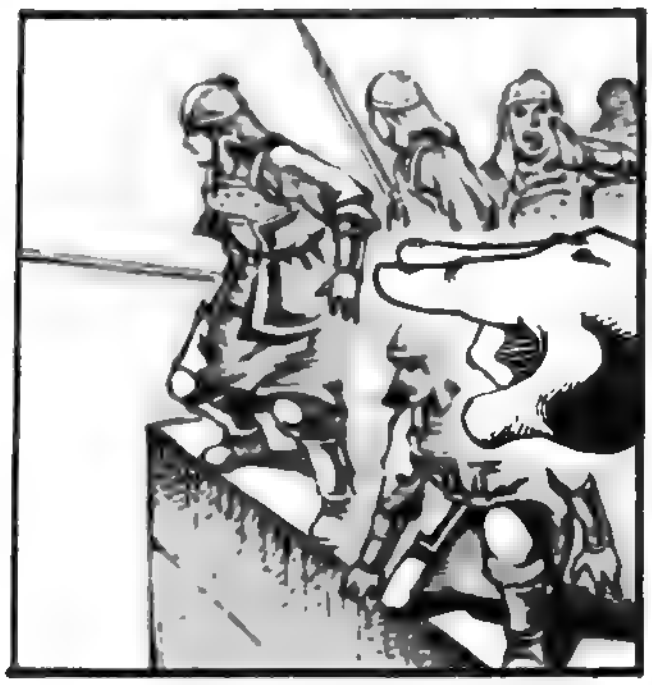
NO. EXCEPT FOR THAT MAN WHO HAS COME TO KILL YOUR FATHER!

SFX: SHOOM-

A MONSTER WHO IS CRAZIER THAN A MADMAN!


HUFF!





休

SFX: SHOO-

YOU'RE HERE!

YOU'RE FINALLY HERE!

TA!

HERE HE COMES! GET READY!

NOT TRANSLATED YET

SIX KA

HE'S TRAPPED!

NOW'S OUR CHANCE! GO!

EVERYONE, ATTACK FROM BOTH SIDES!

SPEAR HIM TO DEATH! KILL!

SFX: HAH

SFX: HAH

NO WAY YOU'RE UNKILLABLE!

SFX: KA~

SFX: HOO~

SFX: HOH!

IT'S FALLING! RUN!

KA-

呼

SFX: HOO

AHH!

碰

SFX: PONG-

啪

ドン
ドン
SFX: SHOO

SFX KA

SFX PONG

YOU HAVE CERTAINLY KEPT YOUR WORD!

MASTER!!

HANDICAPPED, WARRIOR!

SFX: BANNER FLAPPING

BANNERS WARRIORS ROUTED, LIKE A LANDSLIDE, HANDICAPPED AND CORNERED, NO WAY OUT

GIVE OUR DESTINY

COME!

ITS PERFECT ENDING!

SFX KA

DIE!

SFX: HUFF

鳴嘆

SFX AHHHHH

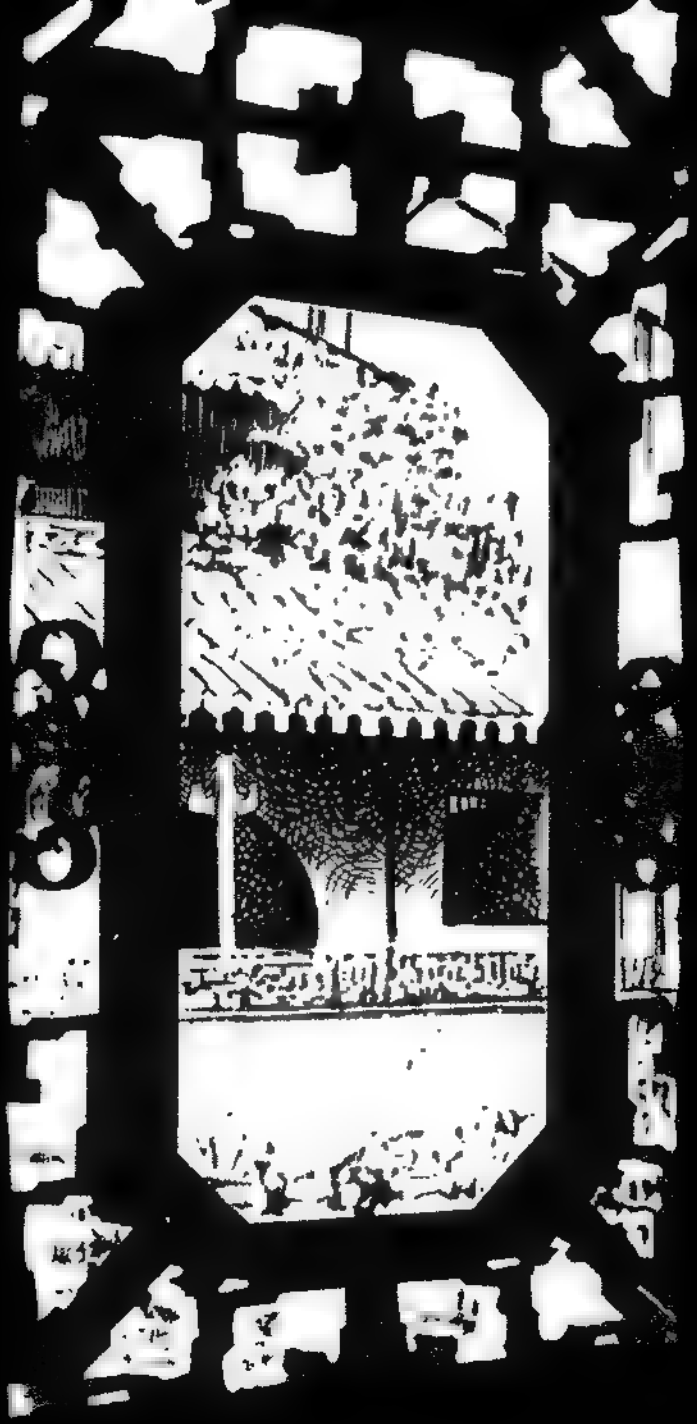
OPINIONS DIFFERED, BUT ONE THING WAS CERTAIN...

SOME SAID HE WAS RUN THROUGH WITH SPEARS, WHILE OTHERS SAID HE WAS BURNED TO DEATH!

THE GRAND TUTOR SIMA DIED THAT DAY.

THEY HAVE ALL SEEN...

NOTE A FIERY PHOENIX LIGHT UP THE WORLD IS ANOTHER WAY OF READING THE SERIES NAME 'THE RAVAGES OF TIME'



JUST THEN, I'VE DREAMED OF THE FIERY PHOENIX AGAIN...

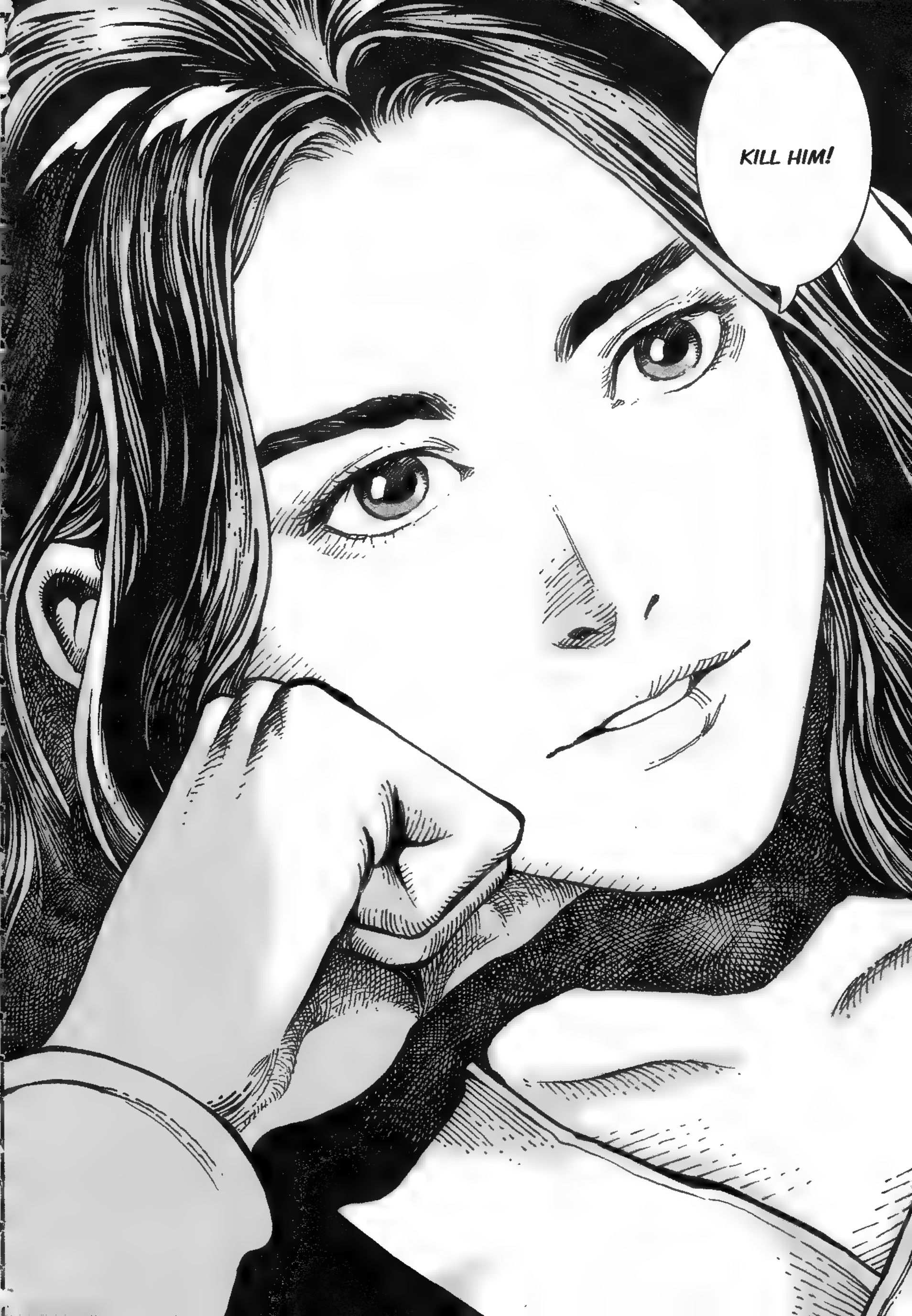
TALKS OF IMPORTANT MATTERS PUT ME TO SLEEP BECAUSE THEY WERE ALWAYS FULL OF CLICHÉ AND NON-CONSTRUCTIVE RAMBLING.

AND,

HOWEVER, I WOULD GROW BOLDER AFTER EVERY SUCH NAP.

THIS WAS MY CONCLUSION—

I COULDN'T BELIEVE JUST HOW BOLD I BECAME.


KILL HIM!

AH! MY QIN DYNASTY JADE HORSE!

COUSIN...

BE RID OF HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL. NO MORE HEADACHES.

IT'S A MESS...

ZHONG DA, ARE YOU JOKING?

XU LIN IS DONG ZHUO'S TOP ADVISER. NO ONE DARES TO TOUCH HIM!

NOT TO MENTION HE CAME TO RECRUIT US UNDER DONG ZHUO'S ORDER. THIS IS A RARE OPP-ORTUNITY.

A BRIGHT FUTURE AWAITS US SIMA CLAN IF DONG ZHUO CONQUERS THE WORLD!

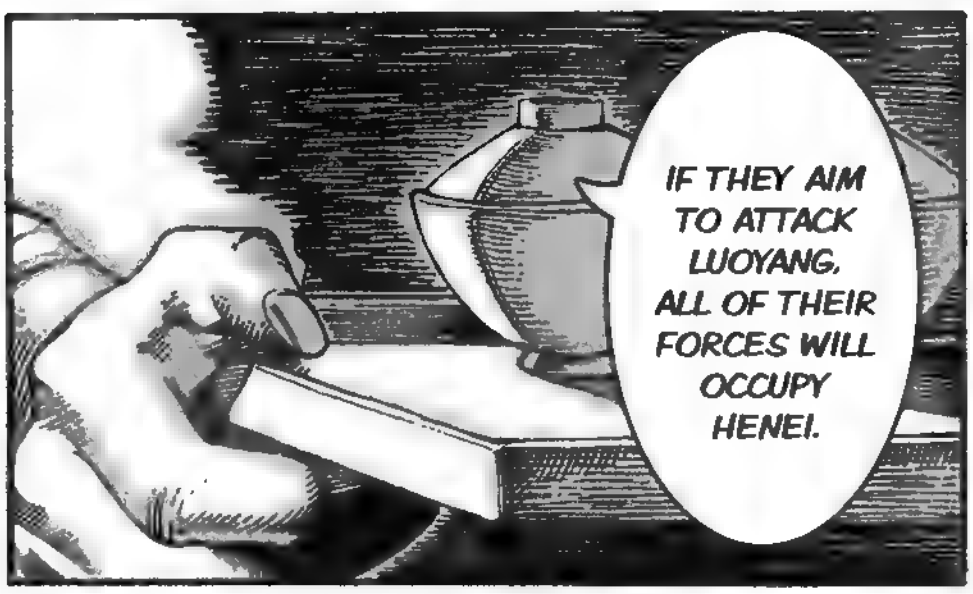
DONG ZHUO IS HOLDING THE EMPEROR HOSTAGE TO CONTROL THE LORDS, WITH LÜ BU AND XU LIN AS HIS BRAWN AND BRAIN.

NO ONE IN OR OUTSIDE OF THE COURT COULD DO ANYTHING BUT SUBMIT TO HIM!

THE CENTRAL PLAIN HAS BEEN AROUND FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. NO DYNASTY HAS LASTED MORE THAN A FEW HUNDREDS. NEW TALENTS ARE BORN EVERY GENERATION. THE DEMISE OF IMPERIAL HAN WON'T SURPRISE ME AT ALL!
DONG ZHUO IS MERELY PLAYING HIS TINY PART TO START THE FIRE.

SUCH UNORTHODOX PRACTICE WILL SURELY INCITE AMBITIOUS WARLORDS TO OPPOSE HIM.

AFTER DONG ZHUO PROMOTED THE FOURTEENTH PRINCE TO THE THRONE.


IF THEY AIM TO ATTACK LUOYANG, ALL OF THEIR FORCES WILL OCCUPY HENEI.

THEY'LL PILLAGE THE REGION IN THE NAME OF "OVERTHROWING DONG."

AS THE WEALTHIEST OF HENEI, THE SIMA CLAN WILL BE SINGLED OUT.

THE LOSS WILL BE INCALCULABLE!

THE SHORT-TERM FAME MEANS LITTLE WHEN WE'RE STUCK BETWEEN DONG ZHUO AND THE OPPOSING WARLORDS.

I'M AFRAID IT'S... UNWISE.

WHY KILL XU LIN?

THEN A TACTFUL REFUSAL WOULD DO.

KILLING XU LIN IS LIKE SEVERING ONE OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMS. A VICIOUS TIGER WITHOUT CLAWS IS LESS SCARY.

THE ACT WILL ALSO MAKE THE WARLORDS THINK TWICE ABOUT RAIDING OUR ASSETS.

YES!

YES! THIS STRATEGY IS PERFECT!

REMEMBER HOW ZHONG DA ALWAYS MANAGED TO DEFLECT VARIOUS WARLORDS' DEMANDS OF FUNDING AND SUPPLIES?

THIRD MANAGER,

EVEN THE OWNERS OF EIGHTY SHOPS OF SEVEN STREETS APPROVE OF THIS.

WE'RE ONLY GOOD AT HANDLING MONEY. IF YOU COULD, ZHONG DA, GO FOR IT!

FEAR NOT, BIG BROTHER. WE'VE GOT ZHONG DA!

SIGH. ARE YOU SURE?

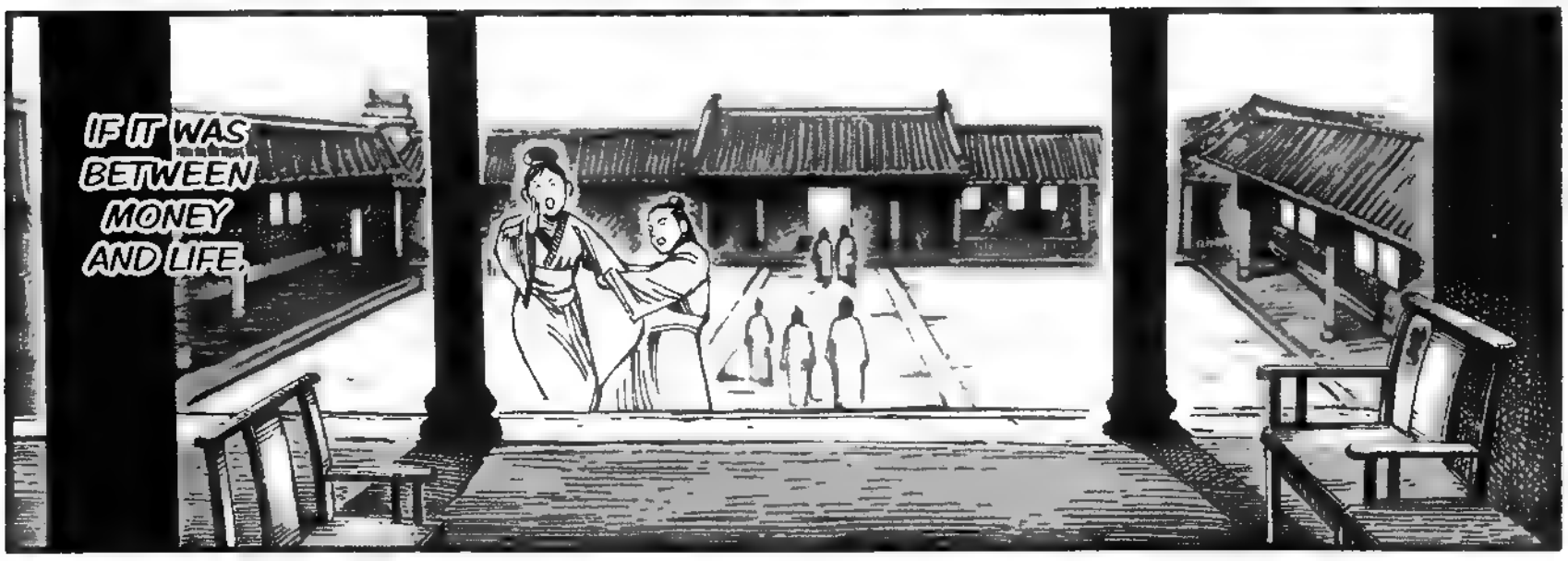
FOURTH UNCLE, AN ANNUAL TRIBUTE OF ONE MILLION TO DONG ZHUO WILL SQUEEZE US DRY WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

MONEY OR FAME, FOURTH UNCLE. WHICH DO YOU WANT?

MONEY OF COURSE!

HAHAHA! FOURTH UNCLE IS SO HONEST!

A TOAST TO YOU!


IF IT WAS BETWEEN MONEY AND LIFE,

HOW WOULD THEY CHOOSE THEN?

CAN'T YOU SEE I WAS DISCUSSING IMPORTANT MATTERS WITH THE ELDERS?

WHO SAID WE GOTTA TRAIN SWORD-FIGHTING FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?

HAT: NUMBER FOUR IN THE WORLD

HAVE MY RESPECT- YOU NUMBER ONE LAZY BUTT OF THE WORLD!

HATS NUMBER THREE, FIVE, SIX AND SEVEN IN THE WORLD

OTHER THAN YOU SLEEPING TILL NOW, SECOND BROTHER!

WE SAW NOTHING.

KILL HIM!

WHAT'S ALL THIS NON-SENSE?

WHAT'S THE PUNISHMENT FOR BEING INARTICULATE?

HA HA!

SHUTUP. THAT'S THREE YEARS AGO...

PUNISH ME? THINK AGAIN!

GUARDS! KILL HIM!

TICKLE

TICKLE

NEED SOME MORE WIPING?

YOU CAN'T EVEN WIPE YOUR OWN ASS WITHOUT MY HELP!

SEVENTH, BATTERING RAM!

FINISHING MOVE!

BACK OFF! STINKY BRAT!

碰

SFX: PONG-

DAMN YOU BRATS!

G...
GOOD
MORNING!

YOUNG
MASTER.
I'M READY!

CAN'T YOU TELL THEY'RE FAKING?

HEE~

OUCH!

SLEEPING ON DEMAND. LITTLE DEVILS!

WHO KNEW YOU'VE BEEN GETTING READY SINCE MEETING XU LIN LAST YEAR...

I WANT THAT TOP ADVISER'S TRIP TO BE HIS LAST!

TAKE THIS RING OF COMMAND.

SISTER MENG. YOU'LL BE SORRY IF YOU EVER TELL ON US AGAIN!

YESSIR!

NONSENSE. EUNUCHS DON'T COUNT AS MEN!

WHAT SISTER? I'M A GUY.

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO DRESS UP, XIAO MENG, YOUR BEAUTY WILL BE OUT OF THIS WORLD!

SFX GALLOPING

UGLY MUTT. WHO LET YOU IN?

HERE AGAIN TO LISTEN TO ME SPEAK THE UNSPEAKABLE?

嗄嗄

SFX: HUFF, HUFF

I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HAVING THIS DREAM.

PERHAPS THIS IS AN OMEN FROM FATE?

THIS IS THE ONE HUNDREDTH TIME I'VE HAD THIS DREAM...

THE DREAM HAS SHOW ITSELF A HUNDRED TIMES, AS IF IT DOESN'T WANT ME TO FORGET...

NEVER FORGET THAT CRAZY FATE!

WHY IS THAT MAN ME? OR IS IT THAT...

I AM HIM?

IS THIS FATE THAT NO ONE CAN CHANGE?

WHAT IS OUR FATE?
BY HEAVEN'S DESIGN? OR OUR OWN?

...NO.

WE HAVE BUT ONE FATE –

DEATH.

DEATH IS NOT SCARY.
THE GOAL OF OUR BIRTH IS TO MOVE TOWARD DEATH.
THE SCARY PART IS THAT BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH...

WHAT

HAVE

YOU

DONE?

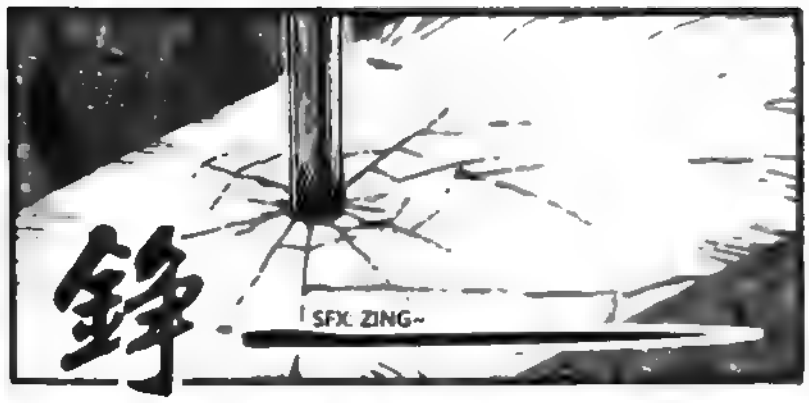
CHAPTER 2
CRIPPLED AND CORNERED

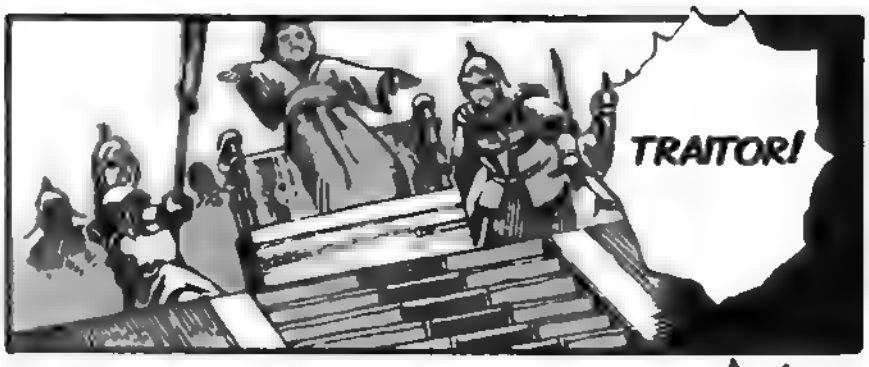
陣

SFX: CROWD NOISE

SFX PA

I HAVE NO WORTHY FOES ANYMORE!


錚
SFX: ZING~


TRAITOR!

STAY BACK!

嘩

SFX: CROWD GASPS

EMPEROR SHAO

LIU BIAN

SFX PA

嘩

SFX: CROWD GASPS

GOOD JOB! FENG XIAN, MY SON!

GRAND ADMINISTRATOR OF HEDONG

DONG ZHUO

OH!

YOUR MAJESTY! DOES MY ASS SMELL GOOD?
YES... VERY!
IN THAT CASE.

KA HA HA HA HA HA!

YOU CAN BE MY CUSHION AS I CONQUER THE WORLD!

LONG LIVE THE MIGHTY ARMY OF XILIANG!
LONG LIVE
LONG LIVE

THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION THAT ERUPTED IN YEAR 164 SHOCKED THE CAPITAL.

EUNUCHS DOMINATED THE COURT. NEAR THE END OF EAST HAN DYNASTY, AND GOVERNANCE DETERIORATED WHILE THE MATERNAL RELATIVES HELD POWER. THE BIG NAME CLANS EACH CONTROLLED THEIR OWN TERRITORIES, AND THE COMMON PEOPLE SUFFERED UNDER THEIR OPPRESSION...

THE ENSUING FOUR YEARS OF FIGHTING EMPOWERED THE WARLORDS OF THE WORLD...

AS THE CROWNED PRINCE LIU BIAN ASCENDED THE THRONE IN YEAR 189, THE INFIGHTING BETWEEN THE MATERNAL RELATIVES AND THE EUNUCHS REACHED THE BOILING POINT. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF HE JIN KILLED THE HEAD EUNUCH JIAN SHUO AND TRANSFERRED DONG ZHUO THE GRAND ADMINISTRATOR OF XILIANG TO THE CAPITAL, WITH THE INTENT TO EXECUTE THE REST OF THE EUNUCHS.

BUT THE EUNUCHS STRUCK FIRST AND KILLED HE JIN BEFORE THE ARMY ARRIVED. DONG ZHUO LED THE ARMY TO LUOYANG AND TOOK OVER THE COURT...

IN THE SAME YEAR, DONG ZHUO REPLACED LIU BIAN WITH NINE-YEAR-OLD LIU XIE AS THE PUPPET EMPEROR, AND THEN NAMED HIMSELF CHANCELLOR OF STATE SO HE COULD MANAGE THE COURTLY AFFAIRS.

KILL THE TRAITOR

ORDER FOR YUAN SHAO OF BOHAI!

BY YEAR 190, DONG ZHUO'S CRUELTY HAS INCITED A WORLD OF PROTEST! GRAND ADMINISTRATORS OF PROVINCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY SOUGHT TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCES AND USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WAGE WAR. IN THE NAME OF DEFEATING DONG ZHUO, THEY JOINED FORCES AND FORMED THE "GUANDONG ALLIANCE" WITH YUAN SHAO AS THE LEADER BY POPULAR VOTE.

IN THE SAME YEAR, ARMIES OF OVER HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MARCHED TOWARD LUOYANG. AFTER THAT...

CHAOS RULED THE WORLD!

DONG ZHUO BRUTALLY PILLAGED THE WEALTHY CLANS ALL ALONG HIS ROUTE TO THE CAPITAL. HE ALSO PRESSURED THE FAMOUS CLANS OF YANZHOU IN THE NAME OF RECRUITING TALENTS, RAISING OVER TENS OF MILLIONS OF MILITARY FUNDING TO FIGHT THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE.

HE WAS KNOWN AS THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE MILITARY ADVISER

THE MAN WHO SUGGESTED THIS BLOODY SCHEME WAS DONG ZHUO'S FAVORITE,

AS WELL AS THE MOST SKILLED OF XILIANG'S FAMOUS PEOPLE

THE WISEST

XU LIN

IN JUST A FEW MONTHS ADVISOR XU MANAGED TO PERSUADE ALL OF HENEI'S WEALTHY MERCHANTS TO SUBMIT. THE WISEST IN DEED!

YEAH! THESE FUNDING SOURCES WILL SURELY AID IN CHANCELLOR DONG'S CONQUEST!

ZHAO XIAN

THOUGH IT WAS UNEXP-ECTED FOR THE SIMA CLAN TO REFUSE THE RECRUITMENT...

I HEARD THAT THEIR HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD IS BUT A TEEN.

ROW FASTER!

XU JIANG

IGNORANT YOUTH. HIS LIFE IS FORFEIT ONCE CHANCELLOR DONG CONQ-UERS THE WORLD.

UNLESS THE WISEST IS ALSO THE PROUDEST? ISN'T IT WEIRD?

BUT IT'S STRANGE THAT ADVISOR XU HASN'T SAID A WORD AFTER THAT REFUSAL

TOOK HIMSELF WAY TOO SERIOUSLY. THE SIMA CLAN IS DOOMED.

YOU'RE BLOCKING A ROYAL PASSAGE, LOGGER! ARE YOU ITCHING TO DIE?

WHOA!

YOU HEAR ME? SCRAM!

SFX: HOO~

呼

BANNER WARRIORS ROUTED LIKE

兵敗如

BANNER HANDICAPPED AND CORNERED, NO WAY OUT

残存未没将

殺刺

SEX SPLASH

HAN... HANDICAPPED WARRIORS!

DO YOU THINK THEY'RE AFTER THE OFFICIAL FUND?

THE ASSASSINS WHO NEVER FAIL?

WHAT? YOU MEAN THAT RECENT URBAN LEGEND OF YANZHOU...

ADVISOR XU, PLEASE TAKE COVER!

GO! PREPARE TO ENGAGE!

OUR RATIONS COLLECTOR WAS KILLED BY HIM LAST YEAR!

ONE HAND. MUST BE ONE-ARM GUO ANG!

THAT MEANS THEIR ONE-EYE LEADER SHOULD BE NEARBY...

STAY CLEAR OF THE SHORE. THAT GUY MUST BE NEARBY!

ZHANG QING! IS MY SON ON YOUR SHIP? TELL HIM TO COME HERE TO PROTECT THE ADVISOR!

OH RIGHT!

YOUNG MASTER ZHAO!

HURRY! FIND THE YOUNG MASTER!

...ARE NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT EITHER.

ZHAO HUO MAY BE STRONG, BUT THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS...

ZHAO HUO CAME? SO WE'RE SAFE.

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD REACH US AT THIS HEIGHT!

HOH!

I HEARD IT ALREADY.

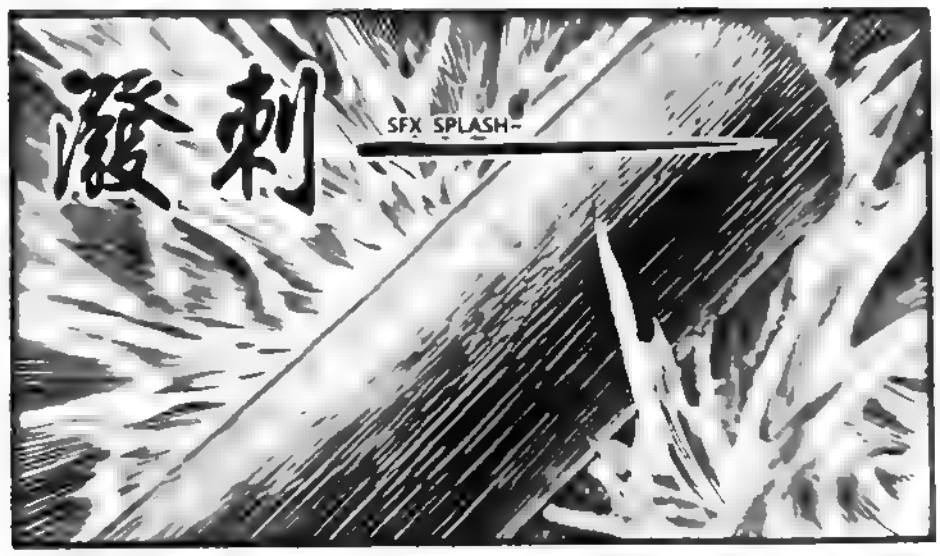
STIP OFFICIAL MONEY

YOU'RE BEING SUMMONED!

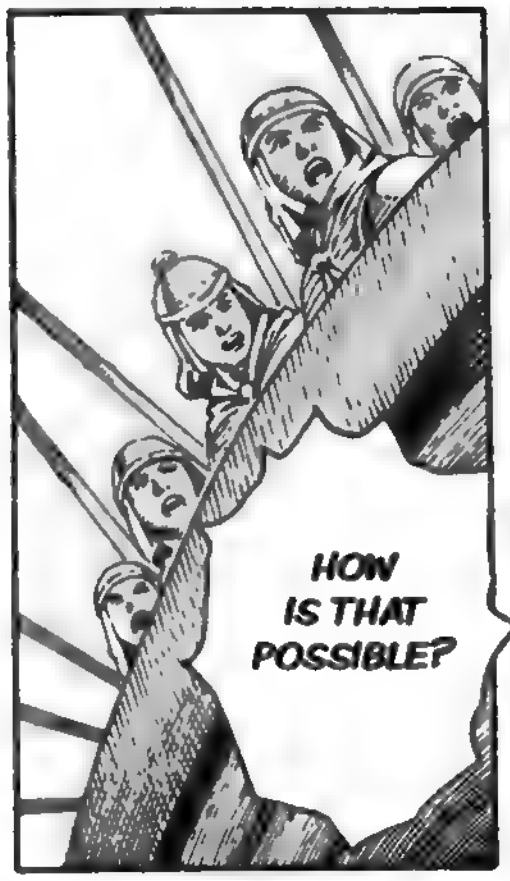
YOUNG MASTER!

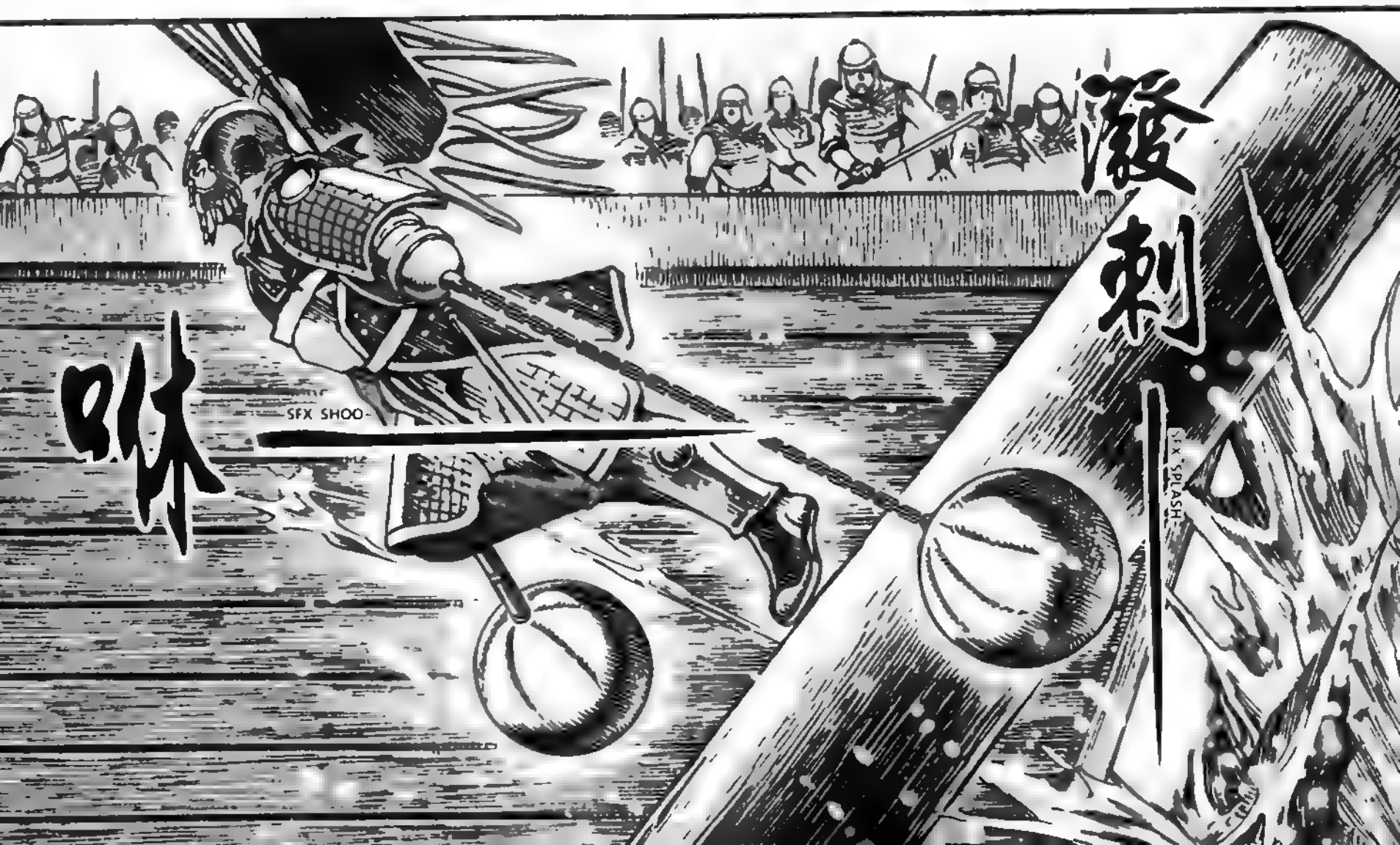
MY HEARING HAS ALWAYS BEEN SHARP!

CHAPTER 3
ROUTED LIKE A LANDSLIDE


SFX SPLASH~

SFX PONG~


HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?


SFX SHOO~
SFX SPLASH~

HIS TARGET IS THE ADVISOR!

COME! COME!

ADVISOR! PLEASE STAY BACK!

SFX: ROAR--

AHH!

STOP HIM!

ADVISOR. THIS WAY!

SFX: SHOO--

IS THAT BASTARD HUMAN?

GET CLOSER! STILL NOT ENOUGH!

OH NO! HE BYPASSED THEM ALL!

PROTECT ADVISOR XUI

KILL!

SFX PONG-

SFX. HOH~

哎
SFX: HUFF

SO WISDOM DOES NOT EQUAL COURAGE!

GUARDS! SA... SAVE ME!

MAKE WAY!

SAVE YOURSELF, ADVISOR! WE CAN'T GET OVER THERE!

SFX TA

踏

發刺

SFX SPLASH

SFX: ZING

SFX: !!

ZHAO HUO!

EAT SWORD, BOY!

噹

SFX: DAHN~

OVER-HYPED!

SFX: CHA

ADVISOR!

碰

SFX: PONG~

KILL!

FEAR NOT, ADVISOR. HE'S MY SON!

SFX: CRASH

HUO-ER! KILL HIM!

NOT A PROBLEM. WITHIN TWO STRIKES

YOU'LL DIE LIKE A DOG!

SFX: PAK

CHANG SHAN SWORD STYLE!

TWIST AND TURN~

DIE!

SO STRONG!

AH!

HUO-ER! PRESS THE ATTACK!

RATS! HIT TOO HARD!

發刺

SFX: SPLASH~!

SFX: CRASH

YOUNG MASTER MADE OUR CLAN COMPANY LOOK GOOD!

HE BIT OFF MORE THAN HE COULD CHEW WITH THIS MISSION!

NICE GOING! YOUNG MASTER!

KA!

APOLOGIES FOR MY LATE ASSIST. ADVISOR. YOU MUST BE FRIGHTENED.

LOOK OUT, ADVISOR! THERE'S ANOTHER ONE...

SFX: HOO~

SFX: HOO~

呼

WH...

WHEN DID HE GET THERE?

LOSE A LEG! BOY!

SFX: HOO

SFX: DANG

喀尔

噗

SFX: GASP~

叭

SFX: PA~

碰

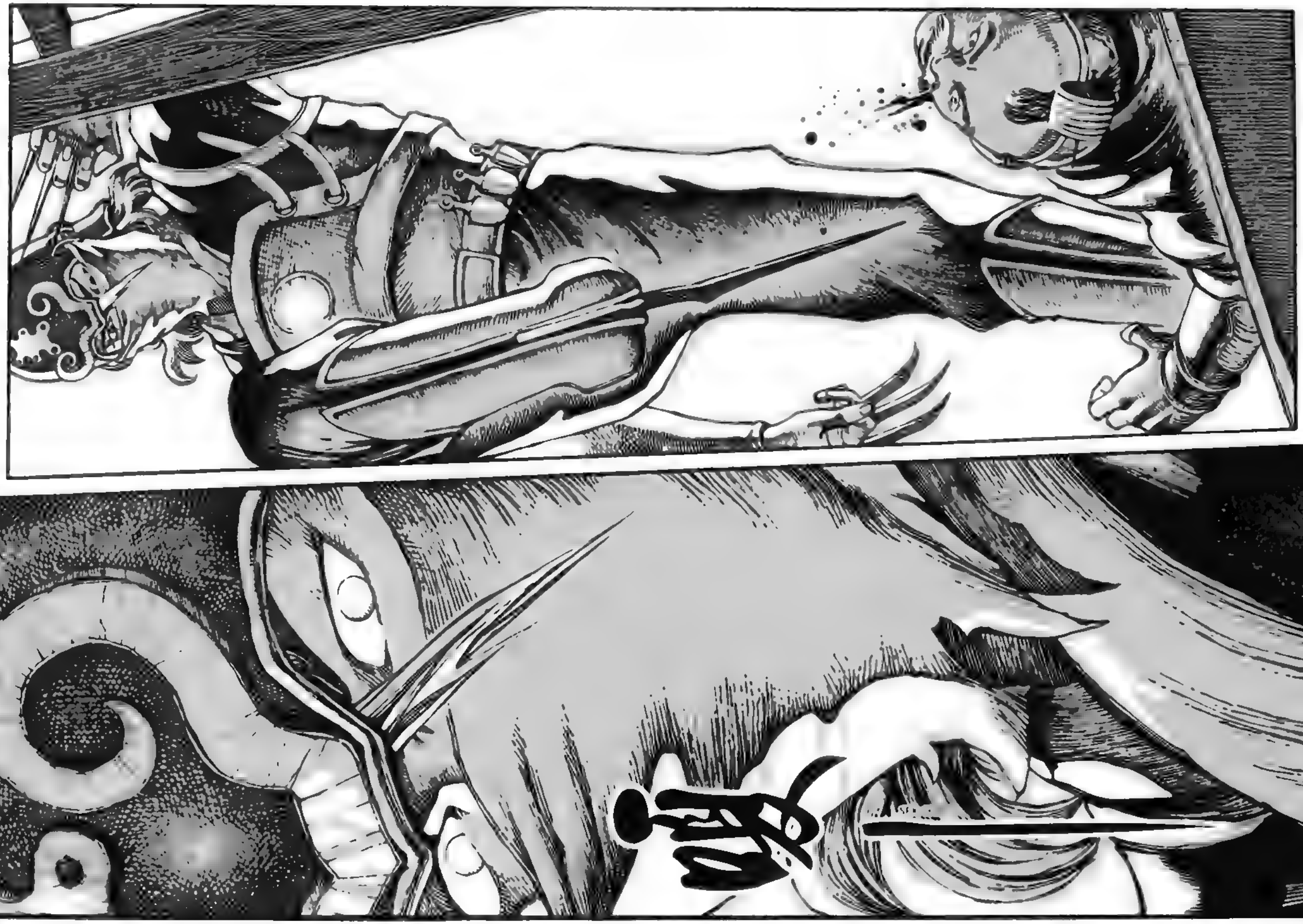
SFX: PONG~

嚓尔

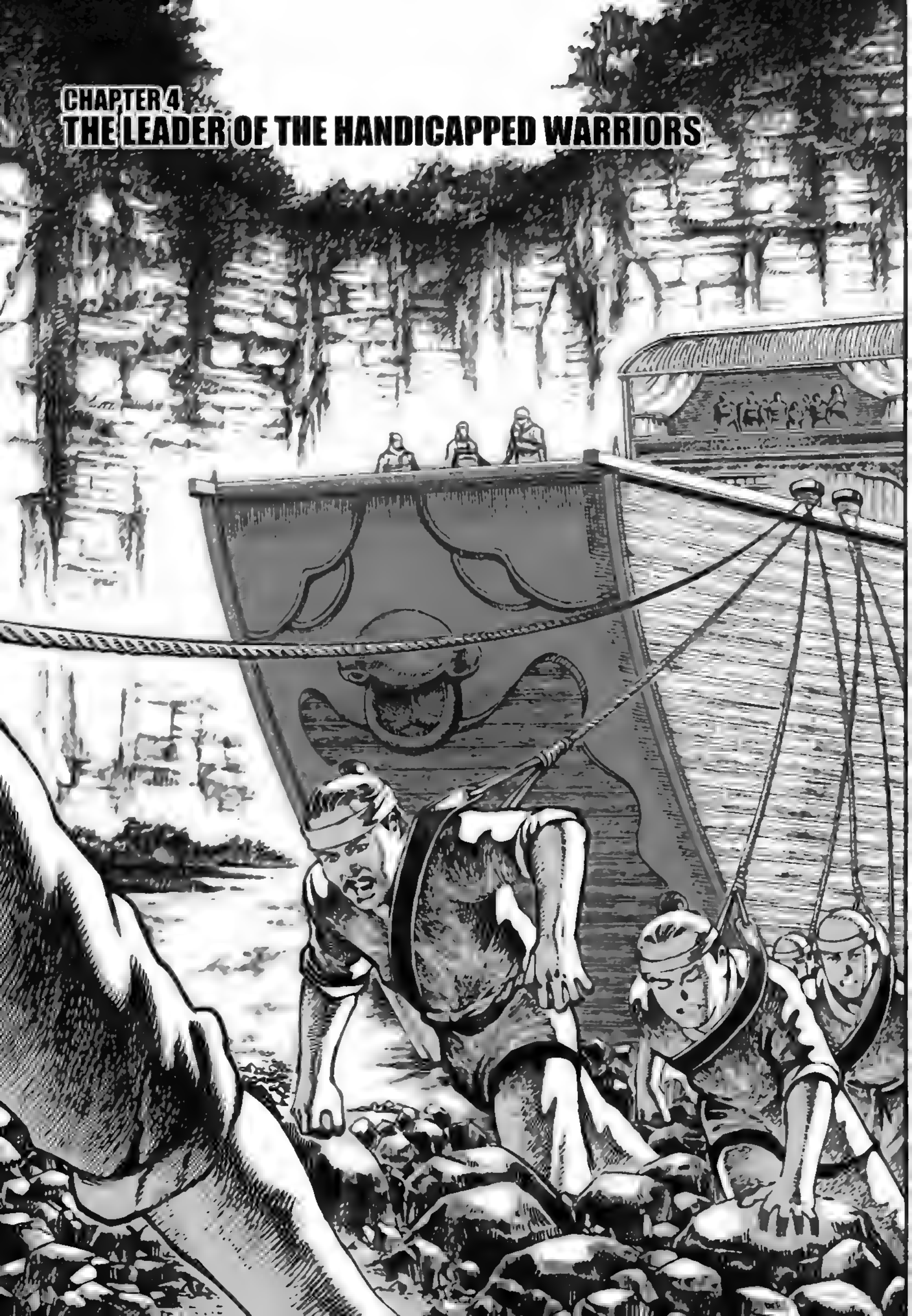
SFX: CHA...

HUO-ER!

FATHER!



CHAPTER 4
THE LEADER OF THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS



SIR ZHANG QING IS HERE FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE!

HAHAHA! EVEN THE SELF-PROCLAIMED MAN OF GUTS GOT THE SCARE OF HIS LIFE!

HOW COULD YOU SET THE MOURNING HALL IN THE HULL?

UH... I REALLY DON'T KNOW, SIR.

HOW... HOW COULD THIS BE?

SFX: AHH-

WHAT THE HELL?

FEH! I WAS JUST...

THOSE FATED TO DIE WILL DIE...

CHEER UP, KID.

MORE TIME ON THE BATTLEFIELD WILL MAKE THIS SEEM LIKE NOTHING...

WILL
LIVE.

THOSE
FATED
TO LIVE

NO WONDER THAT GUY STAYED MUTE. ADVISOR XU MUST HAVE FEARED THAT THE DIFFERENCE IN ACCENT MIGHT GIVE HIM AWAY!

YOU GOT ME GOOD, ADVISOR XU. SO IT WAS THE BODY-DOUBLE WHO WAS KILLED.

I SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS THE CHIEF CONTROLLER OF A POWERFUL ARMY.

SUPPORTING THE NEW EMPEROR AND MANAGING COURTLY AFFAIRS HAVE TURNED CHANCELLOR DONG ZHUO INTO A PUBLIC ENEMY.

THEY SAY YOU'RE THE WISEST IN THE WORLD. NOW I'M COMPLETELY SOLD.

YOU DEDUCED CORRECTLY, ADVISOR.

THERE ARE NO LESS ASSASSINS AFTER MY LIFE AS OPPOSED TO CHANCELLOR DONG'S.

THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS MUST'VE BEEN SENT BY THE SIMA CLAN OF HENEI.

THAT WAS REASON ENOUGH FOR ME TO USE A DOUBLE.

BUT THIS USELESS DOUBLE

I SUR-VIVED THIS ATTEMPT!

BY MY RESEARCH, YANZHOU'S TOP SEVEN CLANS DARED NOT REFUSE CHANCELLOR DONG'S RECRUITMENT DESPITE THEIR OWN MILITIA OF THOUSANDS.

YET THE SIMA CLAN DARED TO REFUSE DESPITE HAVING NO GUARDS OF THEIR OWN. THEY MUST HAVE A KILLING MOVE.

COST ME A DEAR SUB-ORDINATE.

THIS IS THE BATTLEFIELD. ONLY COWARDS GRIEVE.

YESSIR!

MM!

YOU SURVIVED. BUT FATHER STILL FAILED TO CAPTURE THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS.

THE PUNISHMENT FOR FAILING TO PROTECT YOU WOULD RESULT IN THE CONFISCATION OF OUR CLAN'S ASSETS.

I'M NOT SAD. BECAUSE I KNOW THAT IF YOU WERE TO TRULY DIE ON MY FATHER'S SHIP.

HA HA HA

WEIGHING THE PROS AND CONS PERFECTLY! HAHAHA!

NICELY SAID! YOU'RE JUST LIKE MY FRIEND LÜ BU.

WE'RE FORTUNATE THAT HIS DEATH IN THE LINE OF DUTY WILL ACTUALLY SAVE EIGHTY LIVES!

NOT EVEN FOR HIS FATHER!

EXCEPT THAT LÜ BU HAD NO MERCY.

HOWEVER, I'M ACCOUNT-ABLE FOR FATHER'S DEATH.

THE RUMOR OF LÜ BU KILLING HIS FATHER FOR FAME...

SO IT'S TRUE!

SHALL BE MY FOSTER SON.

FROM NOW ON.

ZHAO HUO

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, MY CHILD. YOU DID NOT CAUSE HIS DEATH.

INSTEAD, YOU MADE HIM A MARTYR.

SO MANY ARE AFTER YOUR LIFE, I'M AFRAID THAT...

IF SO,

WHO ELSE HAS WHAT IT TAKES WHEN EVEN THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS HAVE FAILED!

HAHA! AFRAID TO LOSE ANOTHER FATHER?

THAT'S A FUNNY RESPONSE.

PLEASE DO NOT REGRET THIS, SIR.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR GAINING A MIGHTY SON!

CONGRATULATIONS!

MA FANG!

MA FANG, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY FOSTER SON?

YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THIS, MA FANG...

WHO ELSE BUT YOU LOT KNOWS THAT I'M STILL ALIVE?

ADVISOR, IS IT TRUE THAT THE ONE-EYE LEADER OF THE HANDICAPPED WARRIOR HASN'T APPEARED YET?

BUT THEY'RE STILL HERE!

SO THEIR PERFECT KILLING RECORD IS NOT JUST A RUMOR?

WHAT? DID THEY FIND OUT?

SFX HCO

ADVISOR XU IS ALREADY DEAD! WHAT IS HE STILL DOING HERE?

UNLESS HE WANTS TO KILL US ALL?

LOOK! THAT'S THE ONE-EYE LEADER!

WILL YOU DISOBEY THE ORDER?

LET US THROUGH TO REPORT THIS!

WHO IS THAT LEADER?

BY SIR MA'S ORDERS. NO ONE IS TO GO IN DURING THE MOURNING PERIOD!

HE ONCE CAME TO OUR CLAN.

I KNOW HIM.

!

WHY WAS HE THERE?

WHAT!

DOES THAT MEAN YOUR FATHER ZHAO XIAN DEALT WITH HIM BEFORE?

DID HE WANT TO USE YOUR FATHER TO GET CLOSER TO ME?

YES!

WILL MAKE HIS JOB EASIER. HE'S NO EASY FOE.

HE FIGURED THAT THE LIMITED CAPACITY OF A SHIP

THAT BOY IS SMART. IT'S DIFFICULT TO GET PAST ADVISOR XU'S ENTOURAGE OF HUNDREDS!

ZHAO XIAN IS NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.

HOW COULD YOUR FATHER AGREE...

OF COURSE FATHER DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS AN ASSASSIN...

SO WHAT!

BUT HE LIKED THE MAN.

AND NOT SONS.

ZHAO XIAN KEPT HAVING DAUGHTERS

SO HE ADOPTED THE MAN AS HIS FOSTER SON.

ZHAO XIAN HAS NO SON? THEN... YOU...

I KNEW ZHAO XIAN WOULD HIDE THE TRUTH OUT OF FEAR OF RIDICULE.

WITH THE AMOUNT OF WIVES YOU HAVE... WOULD YOU KNOW HOW MANY SONS YOU HAVE?

SO HE LIED ABOUT YOU BEING HIS LONG-LOST SON!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, BOY?

LOOK! THAT GUY'S ON FIRE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WEIRD!

THAT'S THEIR SIGNAL FOR ME TO CONTINUE

YES. NOW I CAN CONCENTRATE ON ALL OF YOU HERE.

CAPTURING THE ATTENTION OF THE FOOLS ON DECK.

熊

~WOOSH X SHOOM~

IT'S ALMOST TIME.

YOU READY, SISTER MENG?

READY.

I'LL PULL HIM UP ONCE HE SUCCEEDS.

SFX: FOO

GUO ANG, LOOK AT THIS.

CALL ME SISTER MENG AGAIN

AND YOU'RE DEAD.

SFX. KA~

"TAKE YOUR DOG LIFE"

AND MY HEARING'S GREAT TOO.

THAT DOUBLE CRIED FOR HELP.

YOU'RE NOT BLIND IN ONE EYE.

HE HAD A SOUTHERN ACCENT. NOT THAT OF XILIANG. I HEARD IT ALL.

NO WAY. COULD HE HAVE HEARD THAT?

BULL-SHIT!

SFX: SHOOM

IN ORDER TO LURE YOU OUT.

SO GUO ANG AND I PUT ON A SHOW

SFX: SHOOM

SUREFIRE. THAT'S THE RULE OF THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS.

HUO!

ENOUGH! YOUR NAME!

LIAOYUAN HUO. LEADER OF THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS!

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SFX: ZING~

ARE YOUR FACES BURNING WITH ANGER YET?

CALM IN A CRISIS. YOU'RE SOMETHING ALL RIGHT.

TOO BAD I INSIST ON SUICIDE.

I REALLY LIKE YOU.

MY FATHERS ALL HAVE PITIFUL DEATHS.

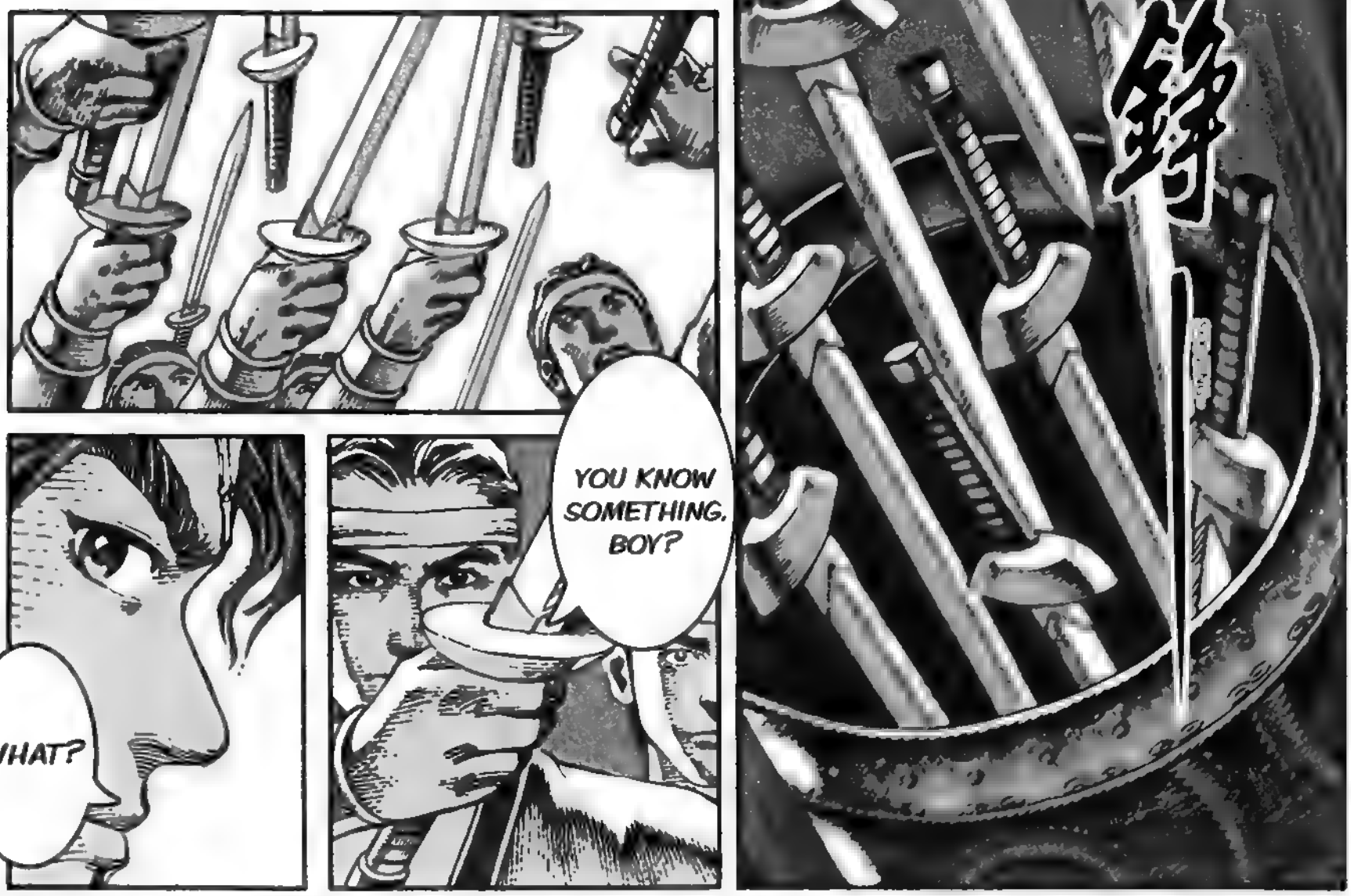
YES. WHAT A PITY!

TOO BAD...

OK

SFX: HOO~

TOO LATE FOR PITY NOW, BOY.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YOU KNOW SOMETHING, BOY?
WHAT?

THERE ARE NOT MANY WHO COULD SURVIVE OUR SWORDS!
NOT EVEN LÜ BU MIGHT LIVE THROUGH THIS. COULD YOU?

MUST BE EASIER THAN FIGHTING A HUNDRED!

FIGHTING A DOZEN...

I'VE NEVER MET LÜ BU BEFORE, BUT MY PHILO-SOPHY IS...

SFX: GASP

IF THIS BOY IS NOT MAD...

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT I LEAD COUNTLESS FEARSOME WARRIORS. IT'S DIFFICULT TO KILL ME WITHOUT THE TALENT OF AN ONE-MAN-ARMY. HOWEVER, THIS LEADER OF THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS HAVE SURPRISED ME TIME AND AGAIN...

GO!

XU LIN! TIME TO DIE!

SFX: PA

ROPE ARROW?

SFX: SHOO

HE MIGHT JUST BE...

A MONSTER THAT RIVALS LÜ BU!

呂布

SFX HOH

A MOTH DIVES INTO FLAME...

SFX PA

AND MAKES THE FIRE BURN BRIGHTER!

SFX BOOM

IT COULD INVIGORATE A MONSTER MORE THAN ANY MILITARY TEXT OR WEAPON COULD.

THREE DAYS LATER, DONG ZHUO RECEIVED SOMETHING THAT PIQUED HIS INTEREST.

HE FOUND IT INTERESTING BECAUSE...

A MONSTER WHO HAD LOST INTEREST IN WAR;

SFX: KA

BROTHER XU LIN...

WITHOUT ANY REGARD FOR LIFE OR PROPRIETY.

A MONSTER WHO COULD SINGLE-HANDEDLY HELP HIM CONQUER THE WORLD.

I SWEAR TO AVENGE YOUR DEATH!

THIS BATTLE ESTABLISHED THE SUPREME MARTIAL REPUTATION OF A MONSTER OF A WARRIOR IN CHINA'S HISTORY. A WARRIOR ABOVE ALL WARRIORS!

LÜ BU!

THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE MARCHED ON LUOYANG IN THE SAME YEAR. THE MONSTER KILLED SIXTY ENEMY GENERALS BY HIMSELF, AND THEN STOPPED THE ARMY OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND STRONG WITH A FORCE OF LESS THAN A HUNDRED!

THE MONSTER HAS FINALLY BEEN AWAKENED!

BUT THE MONSTER BIDED TIME FOR VENGEANCE. HE WANTED THE ENEMY TO FEAR HIM, AND THAT REQUIRED HIM TO DO SOMETHING SHOCKING.

XU LIN'S DEATH ENDED THE RATIONS RAID IN THE YANZHOU REGION. BUT THAT VOID WAS SOON FILLED BY ANOTHER PREDATOR. WHEN THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE OCCUPIED HENEI, THEY CONFISCATED EVERYTHING FROM THE WEALTHY CLANS WHO SUPPORTED DONG ZHUO.
WITH SUCH A MASSIVE INCREASE IN MILITARY FUNDING, THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE ADVANCED EVER CLOSER ON THE LUOYANG CAPITAL. HOWEVER, THE WAR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MIRED DOWN BY LÜ BU'S FIERCE RESISTANCE AND THE DISTRUST BETWEEN THE WARLORDS.
UNTIL THREE WEIRDOS SHOWED UP...

JINGYANG CITY

LOOK CLOSER! THIS IS JINGYANG. NOT LUOYANG!

PIPE DOWN! WE'RE HERE!

BIG BROTHER! DID YOU VOLUNTEER TO LEAD THE WAY AGAIN?

I BLAME YOU TWO FOR DOZING OFF.

OOPS. MY DIRECTION-LESSNESS STRUCK AGAIN.

CHAPTER 5
THE PEACH GARDEN BANDITS

SEE THAT? THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR OPPOSING CHANCELLOR DONG ZHUO!

SFX: PA~

GEEZER! YOU THINK WE MEN OF DONG ZHUO ARE PUSHOVERS?

SFX: GASP~

SFX: PA~

SFX: AHH~

THE GRAND ADMINI-STRATOR OF JINGYANG

SFX: PA~

SFX: PA~

SFX: PA~

SFX: PA~

SFX: AHH~

IMPERIAL HAN IS PLAGUED BY WAR AND STRIFE! THE YELLOW TURBANS MAY HAVE BEEN REMOVED, BUT THEN THE WARLORDS ROSE UP TO OPPOSE THE COURT. NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW OUR LOYALTY TO OUR COUNTRY!

THAT'S LIU BEI? SHIT, HE BECAME DONG ZHUO'S DOG!

THEY SAY LIU BEI IS A NICE GUY, BUT MY EYES TELL ME DIFFER-ENTLY!

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SCUMBAGS EXPLOITING A COUNTRY DURING HARD TIMES. SIGH!

SCRAM!

DON'T ROB ME!

TODAY, I, LIU BEI, COME TO RAISE FUNDS ON BEHALF OF CHANCELLOR DONG ZHUO! TO SHOW APPRECIATION FOR THE COURT!

LOUDER.

嗅

SFX: HUFF~

WHO'S WHISPERING? COME OUT!

YOU CLAIM BLOOD RELATION TO THE IMPERIAL CLAN AND YET YOU SIDE WITH THAT CRUEL TRAITOR!

DONG ZHUO'S MEN WERE INHUMANE ON THEIR WAY TO THE CAPITAL! THEY DESERVE TO DIE!

COME WITH ME!

TRAITOR! LET GO OF ME!

EVEN I, A LOWLY TEACHER ZHANG SONG, LOOK DOWN ON YOU!

MINION! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, YOU CAT-FACE!

SCRAM!

SFX: HOO~

GET THE FUCK OUT OF JINGYANG!

SFX: WHOA~

SFX: AHH~

SFX: PA

SNAP

THEY SAY JINGYANG'S WATERMELONS ARE SWEET AND JUICY. I WONDER HOW THIS ONE WILL TASTE.

IF THAT CHEST ISN'T FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH RICHES BY THE TIME I'M DONE, THAT CAT-FACE...

I'M IN SUCH A HURRY TODAY THAT I ONLY HAVE TIME TO EAT ONE SLICE.

SFX: PA PA PA

GOT IT? HURRY UP!

WILL THROW YOU OUT ONE BY ONE.

SFX: DAHN DAHN DAHN

噹

噹

噹

MM?

噹

SFX DAHN-

噹

SFX DAHN

NO. I MEANT THE CHEST OF WEALTH ISN'T ENOUGH!

NO? I THINK IT'S PLENTY SWEET!

THAT'S... NOT ENOUGH... NOT ENOUGH...

LIU... SIR LIU. THAT'S ALL WE HAVE!

WHILE THE WAR IS ON WE'RE ALL TIGHTENING OUR BELTS!

JUST LIKE THIS CHEWED-DOWN RIND. ALL IT TAKES TO GET MORE JUICE OUT IS A LITTLE SQUEEZE.

SFX PA

踏！踏！踏！踏！

SFX: TA! TA! TA!

THERE ARE MORE AT HOME. RIGHT?

MEN! CONFISCATE EVERYTHING!

KA-TOK!

OPEN UP! RATION TAX!

GIVE IT BACK! GIVE IT BACK!

YOUR GOLD TEETH ARE OURS NOW!

GEEZER! WHAT'S THAT UNDER YOUR SHIRT?

嗚

SFX RRRR

呀

SFX: AHH–

AH!

噔

SFX: ARMY MOVEMENT

MASTER! THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE IS COMING!

ONLY THIS MUCH LOOT. DAMN IT!

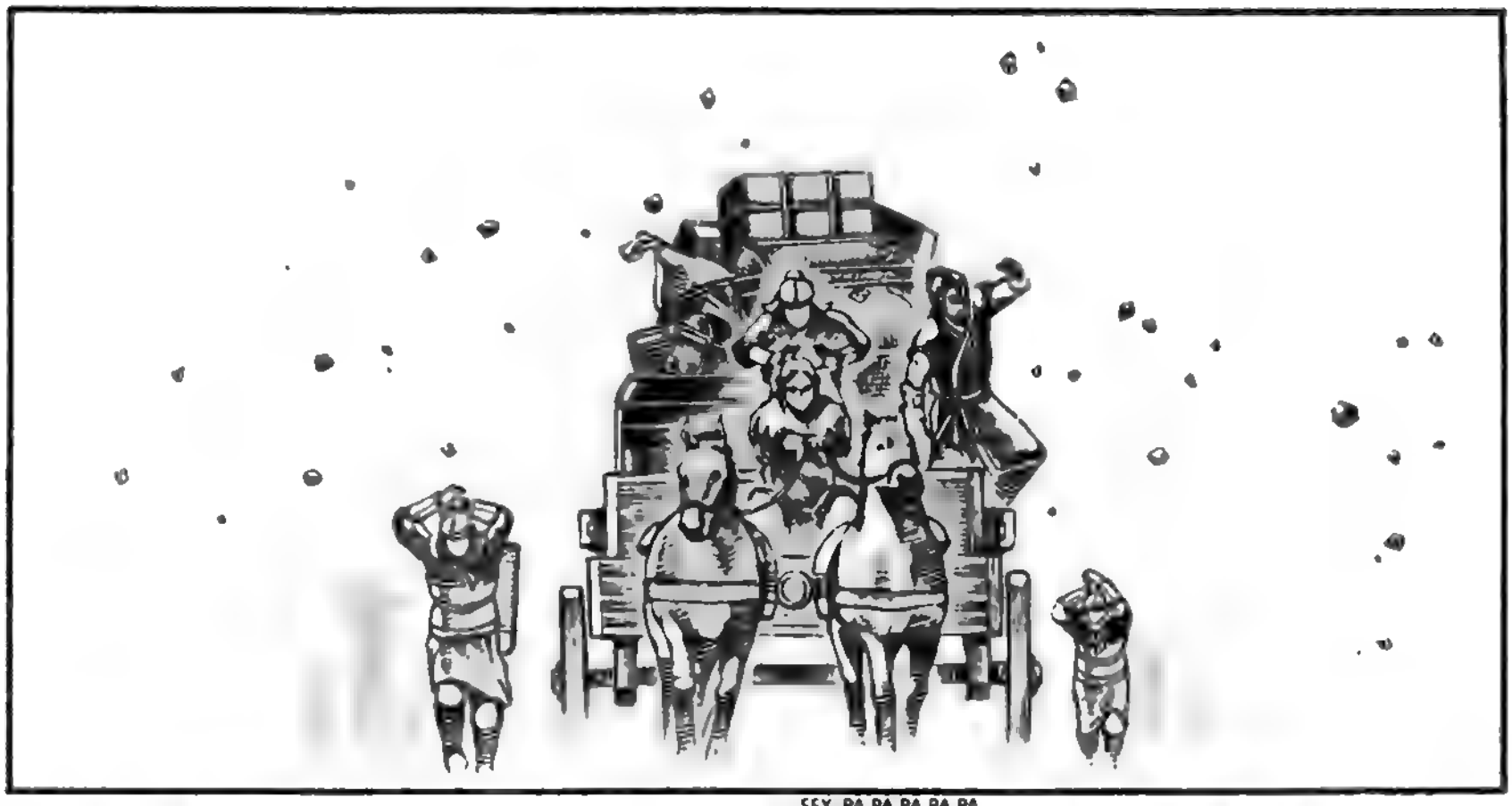
RETREAT! LEAVE BY THE WEST GATE!

THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE WILL GIVE THEM A BEATING FOR SURE!

THAT VILLAIN IS FINALLY GONE!

TRAITOR OF IMPERIAL HAN! PILLAGING SCUM!

SCRAM!



NOTE GUAN YU'S COURTESY NAME IS YUN CHANG

AHA! PERFECT TIMING!

I'M STILL ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU, YUAN SHAO!

LOOK! THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE HAS ENTERED THE CITY!

生

SFX WHOA!

降

SFX: CROWD NOISE

HURRY! NOTIFY COMMANDER YUAN SHAO OF WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!

SEND WORD!

THE WARM RECEPTION BY THE RESIDENTS MELTED THE HEARTS OF THESE BATTLE-WEARY SOLDIERS OF THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE!

SHORT ON SUPPLIES AS THEY WERE, THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE PLANNED TO PILLAGE THE CITY FOR RATIONS...

BUT ALL OF THAT WAS FORGOTTEN.

SFX: CROWD NOISE

OH, TEACHER...

THROWN ACROSS THE WALLS?

MASTER ZHANG GAVE A ROUSING SPEECH, BUT HE WAS THROWN OUT BY THE SCOUNDREL AND DIED.

WHAT MORTAL HAS THAT KIND OF STRENGTH?

HEY, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

YOUR TEACHER IS JUST FINE!

TELL ME! WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?

TEACHER! UH...

嘩

SFX CROWD NOISE

NOTE: FIFTEEN LI = 6 KILOMETERS

FIFTEEN LI AWAY, THE CITY OF HUYANG WAS JUST PILLAGED BY THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE...

I'M BUT A WALKING CORPSE. TAKE MY LIFE IF YOU WANT!

WE'RE ALL ON THE BRINK OF DEATH...

MONEY? THE CITY WAS JUST RAIDED BY THE ARMY.

NO!

I'M HERE TO SAVE THE CITY.

LISTEN UP! WE'LL BE DISTRIBUTING MONEY AND FOOD. SO GET IN LINE!

DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD SIR LIU HAD TO WORK TO COLLECT THESE SUPP-LIES?

SFX: CROWD NOISE

SO THE LEGEND OF YOUR BENEVOLENCE IS TRUE!

SAVIOR! LIU BEI THE SAVIOR!

RE... REALLY?

THEN THEY WOULDN'T HAVE POURED THEIR HEART OUT TO THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE.

IF OUR BIG BROTHER HADN'T RAIDED JINGYANG IN DONG ZHUO'S NAME, THE PEOPLE THERE WOULDN'T HAVE HATED DONG ZHUO TO THE BONE.

THE COMMON FOLKS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO SUFFER DURING CHAOTIC TIMES.

THAT'S THE COST OF WAR. THERE ARE NO GOOD GUYS OR BAD GUYS.

IF THEY WERE RAIDED, THEIR CITY WILL LOOK JUST LIKE THIS!

THEIR WARM WELCOME WOULD DISSUADE THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE FROM ROBBING THEM. THUS SAVING THEIR LIVES.

SOONER OR LATER, THE PEOPLE OF JINGYANG WILL UNDERSTAND OUR BIG BROTHER'S INTENTION.

WHILE I... CAN ONLY PLAY THE VILLAIN.

DON'T FEEL BAD FOR THAT GRAND ADMINISTRATOR. WHAT'S A LITTLE BEATING COMPARED TO THE LUXURY HE ALWAYS ENJOYED?

SUCH IS OUR BIG BROTHER'S CHARM!

THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN IN THE WORLD WHO YOU'LL THANK FOR ROBBING YOU...

YES. THIS KIND OF WEIRD IDEA

THERE IS NOTHING STRANGER THAN THIS.

ROB ONE CITY TO SAVE TWO.

CAN ONLY BE CONJURED UP BY OUR "FOOLISH" BIG BROTHER.

FLAG LIU

MANY YEARS LATER,

THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF CRITICISM LEVIED
AGAINST THIS MAN NAMED "LIU BEI".

THEY SAID HE STOLE MAJOR CITIES OF XUZHOU
AND JINGZHOU TO USE AS HIS MILITARY BASE.

BUT THE STRANGE THING IS...

PEOPLE OF ALL SOCIAL STATUS IN THOSE CITIES APPRECIATED HIM AND HAD NO COMPLAINT ABOUT WHAT HE DID.

WAS HE A BANDIT? OR A KING?

ONLY THE FUTURE GENERATIONS HAVE A SAY IN THE MATTER...

CHAPTER 6
ZHONG DA'S RESOURCEFULNESS

SFX: 隆

WOW! ARE THOSE BATTERING RAMS?

SO BIG!

LUOYANG? WHERE'S THAT?

I HEARD THEY'RE ATTACKING LUOYANG.

MENG... MENG.

RACCOONS? IS THAT A REAL POST?

SIXTH! DOESN'T OUR BIG BROTHER WORK IN LUOYANG?

FOURTH UNCLE SAID, HE WORKS AS A "BASTARD OF RACCOONS" OR SOMETHING.

AH! RIGHT!

IT'S "MASTER OF RECORDS", NOT "BASTARD OF RACCOONS"!

I HEARD THAT LIAOYUAN HUO IS BACK TOO. HE'S EVEN SCARIER. WE SHOULD BEHAVE!

RUN! SISTER MENG IS SO SCARY!

SHEESH...

唰

SFX: MOVEMENT

YOUR TEACHER IS HERE! GET BACK TO CLASS!

WAR HAS COME...

THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE MARCHED ON LUOYANG IN YEAR 190 THE NORTHERN DIVISION OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND STRONG PITCHED CAMP IN HENEI.

EVEN A LARGE CITY LIKE HENEI BECAME CONGESTED AND THE SITUATION GRADUALLY SUCCUMBED TO CHAOS.

HAD IT NOT BEEN ZHONG DA'S ASSASSINATION PLOT. WE'D ALL BEEN KILLED AS REBELS.

THE MILITARY BRUTES TAKE WITHOUT PAYING!

WHY COMPLAIN WHEN WE'RE STILL ALIVE?

BUSINESS HALTED FOR ALL EIGHTY SHOPS OF THE SEVEN STREETS.

※ SIMA LANG'S COURTESY NAME IS BO DA. HE IS THE ELDEST SON OF THE SIMA CLAN

HAS BO DA NOT RETURNED YET?

A WHOLE DAY OF WAITING. WE'LL DIE OF OLD AGE.

BAD BUSINESS IS BAD FOR MY HEALTH.

COULD SOMETHING HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT, BIG BROTHER! YOU KNOW WE'RE AT WAR NOW...

SFX: SHOO~

YOU HEARD THAT, ZHONG DA? YOUR BROTHER HASN'T RE-TURNED!

DIDN'T WE WRITE TO HIM BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION TO HAVE HIM RETURN IMME-DIATELY?

SERIOUSLY... SIGH!

HE DOZES OFF EVERY TIME WE DISCUSS BUSINESS.

SIGH. SECOND BROTHER ASKED US TO LOOK AFTER HIS SON ONCE HE'S GONE.

BUT WHO'S THE REAL CARETAKER WHEN HE HAS GUIDED US OVER THE YEARS?

A MONSTER OF THE SIMA CLAN.

THE BOY'S SOMETHING ELSE.

I WONDER WHAT SCARY IDEA HE'LL HAVE WHEN HE WAKES UP.

HE WON'T SCARE ME THIS TIME.

MUST BE THE CONGESTION THAT'S KEEPING BO DA.

MASTER. THE STREETS ARE CLEAR NOW. SHOULD I PREPARE THE RETURN TRIP?

GOT IT.

ZHONG DA IS ASLEEP. MAYBE WE SHOULD COME BACK TOMOR-ROW!

FOURTH. YOUR FACE TELLS ME YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT MONEY AGAIN?

TEACHER CHEN. HAVE THE KIDS BEEN FOCUSED ON THEIR STUDIES?

FIRST UNCLE. FOURTH UNCLE. ARE YOU LEAVING?

I JUST CAME UP WITH A BIG MONEY-MAKING SCHEME!

SFX WAH

SFX WAH

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA?

SCARED ME AGAIN.

WANNA HEAR IT?

CONSOLIDATE ALL OF OUR FUNDING AND INVEST IN CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL LIKE WOOD AND BRICKS.

ADVERTISE WIDELY THAT WE'RE HIRING ALL THE CARPENTERS FROM LUOYANG AND YANZHOU.

FIRST.

COME ON. LET'S HEAR IT!

THE THOUGHT OF MONEY PERKS ME RIGHT UP.

WE ALREADY HAVE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES. WHY SO MANY?

FOR WHAT?

WE'LL BE BUILDING THE CITY OF LUOYANG.

SFX SPIT

ZHONG DA, ISN'T THIS MY BRIGHT MOON JADE TEA SET?

NO EMPEROR NOR AN EDICT FOR IT. WHY?

IS THAT ANOTHER JOKE? LUOYANG IS STILL STANDING, WHY...

WHY DO YOU HAVE IT?

DONG ZHUO'S ARMY OF THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND CAME FROM XILIANG...

LISTEN TO ME.

XU LIN'S DEATH MEANS DONG ZHUO'S BACKUP PLAN TO GET SUPPLIES FROM YANZHOU FELL THROUGH...

HERE COMES THE REASONING...

THE LONGER THE XILIANG SOLDIERS ARE AWAY FROM HOME, THE LOWER THEIR MORALE WILL BE.

IF THE WAR DRAGS ON AND ONCE THE GUANDONG ALLIANCE IN THE SOUTH CUTS OFF HIS SUPPLY LINE FROM XILIANG...

DONG ZHUO WILL LOSE FOR SURE.

AND DONG ZHUO KNOWS THAT LUOYANG WILL STRENGTHEN THE NEW OCCUPATIONAL FORCE.

SOON. DONG ZHUO WILL MOVE THE CAPITAL TO CHANGAN. CLOSER TO XILIANG.

THEREFORE HE WILL DESTROY LUOYANG FIRST!

A DESTROYED LUOYANG IS STILL A VITAL MILITARY POSITION THAT TEMPTS ANY OF THOSE WARLORDS!

WE COULD RAISE THE PRICES ON BUILDING MATERIALS AND LABOR...

REBUILDING LUOYANG WILL GIVE US THE INITIATIVE!

SFX. PA

AS FOR BO DA.

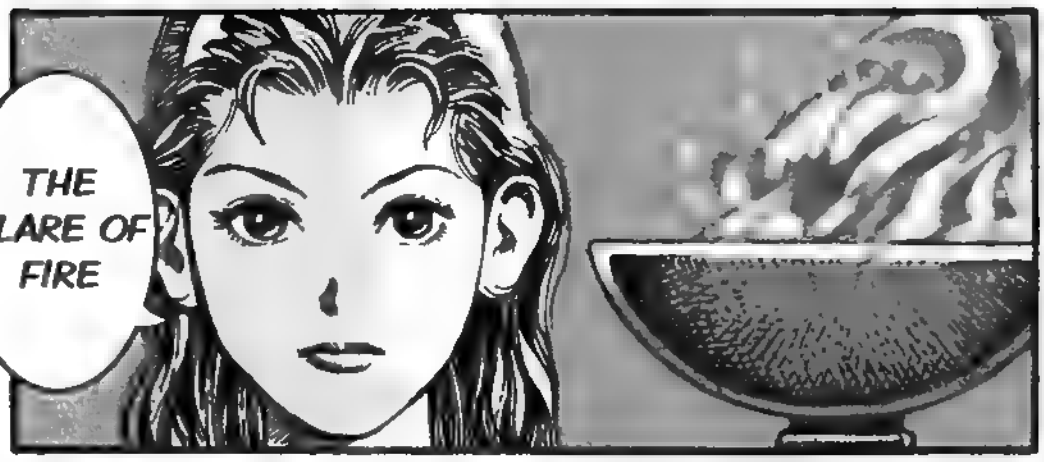
HUGE DEAL, FOURTH!

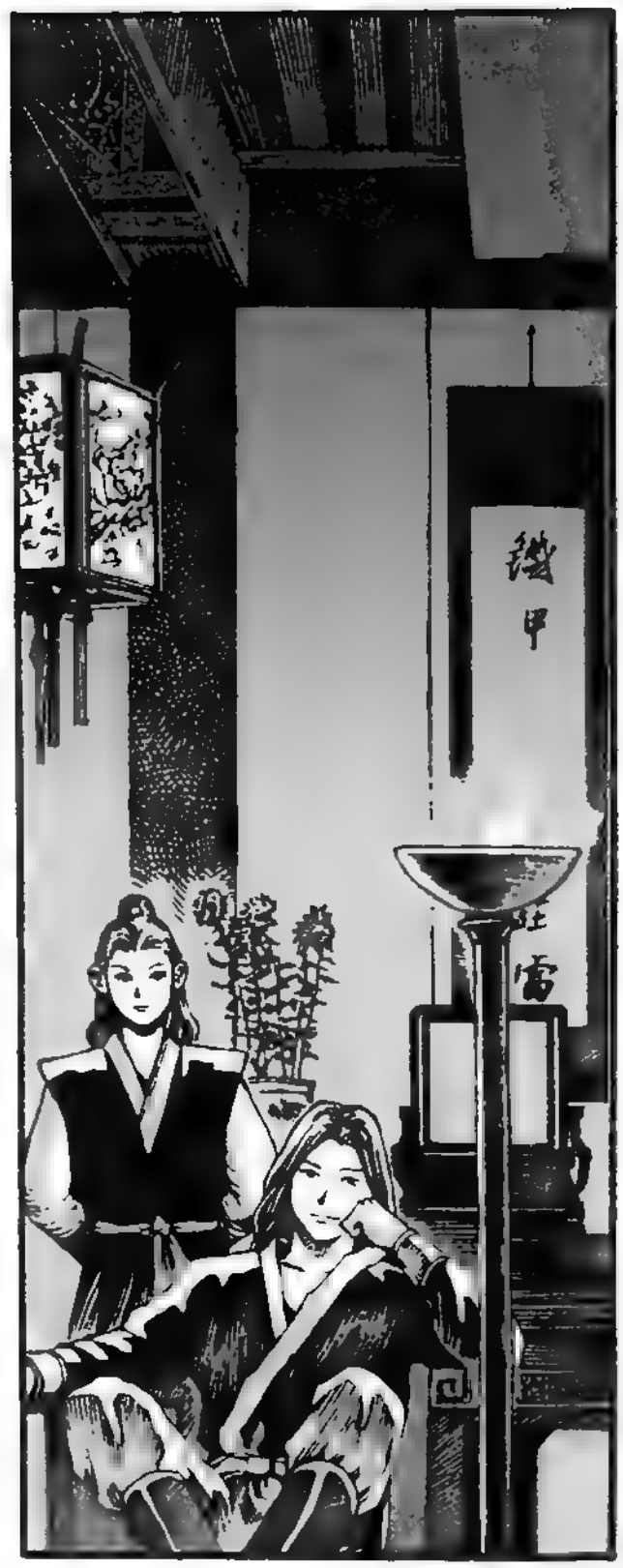
ZHONG DA, YOU SURE ARE OUR LUCKY CHARM!

BO DA HASN'T RETURNED!

OH RIGHT, WE GOT DISTRACTED BY MONEY MATTERS.

DON'T WORRY, HE WROTE BACK AND SAID HE'S DELAYED BY TRAFFIC ON THE OFFICIAL ROUTES.





NOTE: WORDPLAY ON THE FACT THAT "HUO" (HIS NAME) MEANS "FIRE"

I KNOW ABOUT BO DA.

THE HANDICAPPED WARRIORS ARE READY TO GO AT ANY TIME!

SFX SHOOM

GUO ANG. ZHANG LEI. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT'S HARD. BUT DOABLE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT FIRST MASTER REALLY WAS KIDNAPPED BY DONG ZHUO.

DONG ZHUO PLANNED TO DO THIS TO CURTAIL OPPOSITIONS FROM THESE RELATIVES IN THE CAPITAL.

THE SCOUT REPORTS THAT ASIDE FROM BIG BROTHER, ALL RELATIVES OF GUANDONG ALLIANCE FORCES HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PLAN, ZHONG DA?

THAT MUST'VE BEEN XU LIN'S IDEA, RIGHT? CLEVER!

TAKE THE RING OF COMMAND.

SFX. HOO-

I WANT BIG BROTHER TO RETURN SAFELY!

IT WILL COMMAND THE QINGFENG TRIAD OF LUOYANG!

LUOYANG'S HOUSEHOLD VERIFICATION PROCESS IS STRICT. THESE FAKE REGISTRATIONS SHOULD HELP YOU GET IN.

DETAILS OF THE OPERATION ARE WITHIN.

MINISTER OVER THE MASSES WANG YUN IS AN OLD FRIEND OF FATHER'S. HE WILL HELP YOU IN LUOYANG.

YESSIR!

IF THERE ARE NO MORE QUESTIONS. HEAD OUT IMMEDI-ATELY!

YESSIR!

NOT AGAIN.

XIAO MENG!

TAKE CARE OF LOGISTICS PLEASE, XIAO MENG.

WHY MUST I PLAY A WOMAN AGAIN, YOUNG MASTER?

YOUR MISSION IS CRITICAL. ONLY YOU COULD ENTER THE PALACE AND SERVE AS THE INSIDER.

BUT...

XIAO MENG, WOMEN HAVE AN EASIER TIME GETTING IN!

WHO WOULD BELIEVE YOU'RE A MAN, SISTER MENG? WANNA GET FRISKED?

BUT AS A COURTESAN? THAT'S INSANELY DIFFICULT!

THAT IDENTITY TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO SET UP.

FOSTER DAUGHTER OF LUOYANG'S WANG CLAN

DIAO CHAN

FROM NOW ON, YOU SHALL BE THE PERSON IN THE LETTER...

I AM DIAO CHAN?

BEAUTY IS BAD FOR A WOMAN AND WORSE FOR A MAN.
MISFORTUNE WILL PLAGUE THE LIFE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
MORE SO FOR A MAN.

SO... WHAT ABOUT THOSE BETWEEN GENDERS?
WILL THEY HAVE EVEN LESS VOLITION?